

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement drawings are submitted for Figures 1 and 2. In Figure 1, reference numeral 9 between arms 4 and 5 is changed to reference numeral 10 to avoid duplicate reference numerals 9. In Figure 2, reference numeral 10 is changed to 10' and reference numeral 9 is changed to reference numeral 10 so as to be consistent with Figure 1.

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to make editorial changes therein.

Replacement figures are submitted for Figures 1 and 2. In Figure 1, reference numeral 9 between arms 4 and 5 is changed to reference numeral 10 to avoid a duplicate reference numeral 9. In Figure 2, reference numeral 9 is changed to reference numeral 10 consistent with reference changes to Figure 1. In addition, reference numeral 10 is changed to reference numeral 10' to distinguish these two joints from each other. The above-noted changes are the only changes and do not present new matter.

Claims 1-8 were previously pending in the application. Claim 2 is canceled and new claim 9 is added. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-9 are presented for consideration.

Claim 6 is amended to change the word "cubes" to "tubes". Claims 7 and 8 are amended to change the word "pivotation" to "pivoting" to address the claim objections noted in the Official Action.

In order to address the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejections noted in the Official Action, claim 1 is amended to more clearly recite the first, second and third arms. In addition, the term "individual side arm" is removed from claim 2.

Claim 8 is amended to provide appropriate antecedent basis for the limitation "said first plate". Accordingly, the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 are rejected as anticipated by EASON et al. 6,283,421. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites first, second and third arms. The second and third arms are connected to the first arm and are pivotable relative to the first arm about respective pivot axes perpendicular to a central axis of the first arm. Each of the second and third arms is pivotable about the central axis in a radial plane relative to the first arm and is lockable at different angular positions in the radial plane.

EASON in Figure 4, for example, shows a plurality of arms 1 connected to a collapse element 5. In addition, a mast 19 is also connected to collapse element 5. It appears that the Official Action has equated element 19 with the first arm and two of arms 1 as the second and third arms.

However, arms 1 of EASON are not individually pivotable about the central axis (of the first arm) in a radial plane relative to the first arm as recited in claim 1.

Rather, each of arms 1 is connected to collapse element 5, which then rotates the arms 1 in unison in a radial plane relative to the mast 19.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are rejected as unpatentable over RUTHER 6,027,085 in view of EASON et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

RUTHER is only cited for the teaching of a joint plate that allows a camera connected to the joint plate to pivot with respect to a tripod assembly. RUTHER does not teach or suggest that each of second and third arms individually pivots about a central axis in a radial plane relative to a first arm as recited in claim 1. As set forth above, EASON does not teach or suggest what is recited in claim 1. Since claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention, the proposed combination of references would not have rendered obvious claims 1-8.

New claim 9 recites only three arms. In addition, claim 9 also recites that the second and third arms are individually pivotable about a central axis in a radial plane relative to the first arm. The references neither disclose the three-arm configuration as recited nor the pivotable relationship of the second and third arms as recited. Accordingly, claim 9 is also believed patentable over the proposed combination of references. Support for new claim 9 can be found in Figure 1 and page 7, lines 25-32 of the application as filed.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in dark ink.

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- replacement drawing sheet for Figs. 1 and 2